

November 9, 2016

Dear Karen E. Mouritsen, State Director:

Election week has proven to be tough for many of us. But, we must remain vigilant and educate ourselves on what this election means for the entirety of this country, from sea to shining sea. That's why I, with the help of a fellow classmate, organized nearly 100 students from The Ohio State University to send letters of protest to the Bureau of Land Management.

My name is Marisa Twigg, and I'm a third-year at OSU working towards a dual-degree in Environmental Policy and Journalism. Within environmental policy, my specialization is environmental and social justice. Therefore I have made it my duty to research any instances of negligence towards our people and our planet, and to disseminate that research for the use of the public. Because our government agencies make the information they provide extremely difficult to understand.

I have reviewed the internet-based lease sale for the 1,622.11 acres of land in Wayne National Forest that will take place on December 13, 2016 at 7 a.m. This letter serves as a protest against the sale of all 28 parcels being sold for surface and mineral rights in the Wayne. I hereby object to the sale of these rights to hydraulic fracturing companies, and the list of parcels I object to can be found in the attached documents. My objections and concerns are detailed in the remainder of this letter.

To start, I would like to address the absolute absurdity of your protest process. All of the information I found regarding this lease-sale was online. The sale itself will be online. The map of the area is online. Each comment written and sent to the BLM will be posted online once they are received. Why is it that the BLM forced the public to write letters and send them in, when every other component of this process will be online? Was this an effort to prevent people from sending in comments and protests? Did you know the public would be less receptive to writing a letter than filling out an online form? What if people do not have access to postage, paper, envelopes? Were you thinking of those people? Why did you increase the barriers to addressing this issue? That in and of itself sends a clear message to the public: the BLM has structured this process to prevent people from expressing their concerns. That's not even in addition to the FONSI filed after the environmental assessment. This is a nonsensical way of allowing the public to engage in matters dealing with their public land. I demand that you make this process simple, transparent, and accessible to ALL people.

Now, onto the land itself. Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Assessment of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas on Drinking Water Resources" states that fracking has had "no widespread, systemic impacts" to drinking water, the EPA'S very own Science Advisory Board expressed its concerns with the statement. Their response was "The SAB finds that this statement does not clearly describe the system(s) of interest (e.g.,



groundwater, surface water) nor the definitions of 'systemic,' 'widespread,' or 'impacts.'"(U.S. EPA)<sup>2</sup>

In addition, the Halliburton Loophole is another absurdity when it comes to hydraulic fracturing. The 2005 Energy Bill has exempted companies drilling for natural gas from disclosing what chemicals go into the "water" sent into the ground. This prevents them from being listed as pollutants and therefore exempts them from being regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. With all of this said, any one person can pick and choose science to support their case. Even if people weren't reporting that their water catches on fire, that it is discolored, smells, and has oil spots coming out of it (but unfortunately these things are being reported), wouldn't it be best to protect the public, the flora and fauna from potential threats to their health? Or is the economic gain far too great to worry about the impacts on our limited freshwater resources? Fracking has many more disadvantages, including the displacement of communities, lowering of property values, and the use of approximately 4-6 million gallons of water per well.

The effects of fracking on the environment are felt even before the natural gas is extracted. Operating equipment and construction will cause extreme amounts of noise pollution which will significantly impact the wildlife in the area. These anthropogenic sounds are unnatural and threatening. Noise pollution also has detrimental effects on species richness and has been shown to alter avian communities (Francis et. al)<sup>1</sup>.

Lastly, with the country's new president-elect and the cabinet members he has chosen, our environment will be in dire need of assistance. The Bureau of Land Management has the power stop giving in to corporate interests and be a true driver of change in the renewable energy sector. Future generations depend on this. They depend on us to keep the land as preserved as possible and not pollute the air and water. Change starts with you.

As a student studying environmental policy and who is also heavily involved with media through journalism, I will be closely following the BLM's decision. As a taxpaying citizen of the United States, as a user and stakeholder of public lands, I demand a response to this letter. I specifically demand a response to each point outlined and a detailed description of how the BLM takes public protests into consideration.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
Marisa Twigg

1. Francis, Clinton D., Catherine P. Ortega, and Alexander Cruz. "Noise Pollution Changes Avian Communities and Species Interactions." *Current Biology* 19.16 (2009): 1415-419. Web.

2. U.S. EPA. Assessment of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas on Drinking Water Resources (External Review Draft). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, EPA/600/R-15/047, 2015.



**LIST OF PARCELS FOR SALE IN WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST**

11/5/2016

**Total # of Parcels: 28**

**Total Acreage: 1,622.11 acres**

**ES-003-12/2016 OHES 058185 ACQ**

Lee Township, Monroe County  
Section 8, SENW, S2SWNE.

**60 acres**

**ES-004-12/2015 OHES 058186 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Section 14, NESE, Pt. SESE

**47.00 acres**

**ES-005-12/2016 OHES 058187 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Section 19, W2SE

**79.15 acres**

**ES-006-12/2016 OHES 058188 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Section 20, S3/4 NESW

**30.03 acres**

**ES-007-12/2016 OHES 058189 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Section 25

**94.72 acres**

**ES-008-12/2016 OHES 058190 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Section 26, NESW, Pt. NWSW

**78.25 acres**

**ES-009-12/2016 OHES 058191 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Section 27, SENW

**40.00 acres**

**ES-010-12/2016 OHES 058192 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 31, NESE  
**38.96 acres**

**ES-011-12/2016 OHES 058193 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 31, SESE  
**38.96 acres**

**ES-012-12/2016 OHES 058194 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 32, Pt. W2SW  
**64.30 acres**

**ES-013-12/2016 OHES 058195 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 33, NESW  
**40.13 acres**

**ES-014-12/2016 OHES 058196 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 34, Pt. SENE  
**15.12 acres**

**ES-015-12/2016 OHES 058197 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 34, Pt. NENW  
**30.23 acres**

**ES-016-12/2016 OHES 058198 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 34, Pt. NWNW  
**22.14 acres**

**ES-017-12/2016 OHES 058199 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 35, Pt. SENSWSWE  
**30.64 acres**

**ES-018-12/2016 OHES 058200 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 35, Pt. W2SWSW  
**0.86 acres**

**ES-019-12/2016 OHES 058201 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 36, SESW, Pt. W2SW  
**39.65 acres**

**ES-029-12/2016 OHES 058211 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 36, NENE  
**40.22 acres**

**ES-030-12/2016 OHES 058212 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 3, Pt. N2SE  
**28.00 acres**

**ES-031-12/2016 OHES 058213 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 6, Pt. NE  
**56.00 acres**

**ES-032-12/2016 OHES 058214 ACQ**  
Green Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 1, SWSW, Sec. 7, N2SE, SESE  
**158.62 acres**

**ES-033-12/2016 OHES 058215 ACQ**  
Washington Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 18 Pt. W2NE, Pt. NW  
**58.14 acres**

**ES-034-12/2016 OHES 058216 ACQ**  
Wayne Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 3, NWNW  
**40.24 acres**

**ES-035-12/2016 OHES 058217 ACQ**  
Liberty Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 29, Pt. S2SESE  
**1.17 acres**

**ES-030-12/2016 OHES 058212 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 3, Pt. N2SE  
**28.00 acres**

Sec. 19, Pt. SW, Pt. NW  
**73.25 acres**

**ES-020-12/2016 OHES 058202 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 15, Pt. SWNE  
**2.53 acres**

**ES-021-12/2016 OHES 058203 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 20, NENE  
**40.08 acres**

**ES-022-12/2016 OHES 058204 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 20, NENW  
**40.00 acres**

**ES-023-12/2016 OHES 058205 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 20, NWNE  
**40.00 acres**

**ES-024-12/2016 OHES 058206 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 21, S2SE, E2SW  
**157.44 acres**

**ES-025-12/2016 OHES 058207 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 34, NESESE  
**10.16 acres**

**ES-026-12/2016 OHES 058208 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 30, SESE  
**39.98 acres**

**ES-027-12/2016 OHES 058209 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 30, Pt. N2SE  
**64.72 acres**

**ES-028-12/2016 OHES 058210 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County